

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 NEA-11
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
HICOM TTPI SAIPAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02051

DEPARTMENT PASS TO INTERIOR FOR OMSN AND OTA

HICOM PASS TO STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNTC, TQ
SUBJECT: 45TH TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (TC): PETITIONERS'
STATEMENTS ON MAY 18

1. SUMMARY: AT THE MAY 18 AM MEETING OF THE TC,
THE FOLLOWING PETITIONERS WERE HEARD: TONY DEBRUM,
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS
COMMISSION; RUBEN ZACKHRAS, PRESIDENT OF THE MARSHALL
ISLANDS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; JOHN NGIRAKED ON
BEHALF OF PALAU HIGH CHIEFS IBEDUL AND REKLAI; AND ROMAN
BEDOR OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF PALAU. AFTER THE
PETITIONERS HAD CONCLUDED THEIR STATEMENTS, THE
PETITIONERS WERE QUESTIONED BY FRANCE AND THE UK. THE
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE THE QUESTIONING
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OF THE PETITIONERS AND BEGIN THE QUESTIONING OF THE US
DEL AT THE MAY 19 AM MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. DEBRUM (VICE-CHAIRMAN, MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL
STATUS COMMISSION) TOOK A SERIES OF POLITICAL SWIPES
AT THE US, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM), THE VOICE
OF THE MARSHALLS AND THE TC ITSELF. RECALLING THE

JULY 1977 "ALMOST" TWO-TO-ONE VOTE FAVORING SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE MARSHALLS, DEBRUM CHASTIZED THE TC FOR NOT SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO OBSERVE "LIFTING THE YOKE OF AN OPPRESSIVE AND OVERREACHING CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT SINCE ITS INCEPTION HAS BURDENED OUR PEOPLE". DEBRUM SAID MARSHALLESE PEOPLE TOOK COMMAND OF THEIR OWN FUTURE AT MOLOKAI WHEN US RECOGNIZED MARSHALLS AS SEPARATE NEGOTIATING PARTNER AND "ACCEPTED THAT THE TYRANNY OF AN ARTIFICIALLY IMPOSED UNITY COULD NOT SURVIVE THE DEMOCRATIC EXPRESSION OF SELF DETERMINATION". DEBRUM THEN RECOUNTED MARSHALLESE PROPOSALS ON THE "ALL-MICRONESIA ENTITY", THE RIGHT OF UNILATERAL TERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GA RES 1541, AND THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WHICH FORCED THE US TO REASSESS ITS POLICIES AND RESULTED IN THE RECENT HILO DECLARATION. "TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, THE HILO DECLARATION SETS FORTH THE PRINCIPLES THAT MAKE POSSIBLE THE ATTAINMENT OF THEIR LONG-HELD DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AN ENDURING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES." DEBRUM EMPHASIZED THAT THE MARSHALLESE DO NOT FAVOR INDEPENDENCE AND CONSEQUENTLY OPPOSE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, WHICH REFLECTS THE COM'S DETERMINATION TO BREAK AWAY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION. NOTING THAT THE CONSTITUTION WOULD EMPOWER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO DIVERT TAX UNCLASSIFIED

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REVENUES FROM THE MARSHALLS AND TO NEGOTIATE MARSHALLESE LAND RIGHTS, DE BRUM CALLED THE JULY REFERENDUM A "TRAP" AND THE COM'S "LAST-DITCH DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO FORCE UNITY". HE BESEECHED THE TC TO SEND OBSERVERS NOW BEFORE THE REFERENDUM IS "STOLEN". DEBRUM CLOSED BY CALLING THE VOICE OF THE MARSHALLS THE "MOUTHPIECE" OF THE COM AND APOLOGIZED TO THE TC FOR YESTERDAY'S VOM STATEMENT FOR WHICH HE ASKED THE TC'S "COMPASSION".

3. RUBEN ZACKHRAS (PRESIDENT MARSHALL ISLANDS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION) REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE FUTURE MARSHALLESE GOVERNMENT. THE CONVENTION (FORMED IN 1976) HAS HELD TWO SESSIONS AND EXPECTS TO CONVENE ITS THIRD AND FINAL SESSION THIS COMING AUGUST TO ADOPT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, WHICH CAN THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE IN THE NOVEMBER 1978 ELECTION. CALLING USG COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT "WELL-RECEIVED AND MOST HELPFUL", ZACKHRAS SAID THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH FREE ASSOCIATION.

4. JOHN NGIRAKED READ STATEMENT BY PALAU HIGH CHIEFS

IBEDUL AND REKLAI ENDORSING COM'S CONSTITUTION
AND THE HILO PRINCIPLES, CRITICIZING US ADMINISTRATION
OF TTPI, AND TAKING PALAUAN "SEPARATISTS" TO TASK. CALL-
ING MICRONESIA TODAY "AN EMBARRASMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL
REPUTATION OF THE MOST DEVELOPED AND POWERFUL NATION
IN THE WORLD", THE STATEMENT BLAMED US FAILURES AND THE
COM'S INHERENT LACK OF POWER FOR THE CURRENT DISHARMONY
AND DISINTEGRATION IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. HE SAID THE
REAL ENEMIES OF MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT ARE THE
PHYSICAL DISPERSION OF THE ISLANDS, WORLD ECONOMIC AND
MONETARY PROBLEMS, AND "THE ABSENCE OF A POTENT
AND UNIFIED APPROACH TO OUR PROBLEMS". CONTENDING THAT
PALAU WOULD NOT GAIN A SPECIAL ADVANTAGE FROM A SEPARATE
RELATIONSHIP WITH US, HE SAID THE CONSTITUTION PRESERVES
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AND PROTECTS PALAUAN CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE, GIVES LOCAL AUTONOMY NEEDED TO SPEED DEVELOPMENT, AND DEFINES MICRONESIA'S NATIONAL CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, AND IDENTITY. THE TWO PARAMOUNT CHIEFS OF PALAU, THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED, SUPPORT THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA AND REJECT THE POLITICS OF REJECTION AND NEGATIVISM.

5. BEDOR, SPOKESMAN FOR THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF PALAU, SAID SEPARATE STATUS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. HE SAID THAT DURING THE UNOBSERVED, UNOFFICIAL REFERENDUM HELD SEPT. 1976, THE PEOPLE OF PALAU HAD BEEN MISLED AND MISINFORMED. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT IF THEY DID NOT VOTE FOR SEPARATION, PALAUANS WOULD BE A MINORITY IN THEIR OWN LAND. HE SAID THAT THE TC HAD NEVER HONORED THE INVITATION TO OBSERVE THAT REFERENDUM AND THEREFORE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PALAUANS DID NOT RECOGNIZE ITS RESULTS. HIS GROUP REJECTED THE PALAUAN POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND CONSIDERED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO BE THE ONLY ENTITY THAT COULD NEGOTIATE PALAU'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. HE SAID IT WAS NOT A POLITICAL ASPIRATION OF THE PALAUANS TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. HE SAID THAT THE COMMITMENT OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PALAUANS WAS TOWARD THE CONSTITUTION.

6. THE TC THEN BEGAN QUESTIONING THE PETITIONERS WHO HAD SPOKEN. FRANCE ASKED THE VOICE OF THE MARSHALLS (VOM) AND THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF PALAU (CCP) WHAT THE PRECISE JURIDICAL STATUS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS WAS. THE VOICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE VOM WAS A CHARTERED ORGANIZATION AND A POLITICAL GROUP WHICH FELT THAT THE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WAS NOT EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE COMMISSION. THE CCP REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE GROUP WAS A NON-CHARTERED ORGANIZATION THAT CONSISTED OF YOUNG PALAUANS SEEKING POLITICAL IDENTITY OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRESSIVE AND LIBERAL PARTIES OF PALAU. THE UK ASKED THE VOM REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT THE "SPREAD OF REPRESENTATION" OF HIS GROUP IN THE ISLANDS. THE VOICE SPOKESMAN SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WAS COMPOSED OF A VARIETY OF PEOPLE FROM AMONG VARIOUS PROFESSIONS. THE UK THEN ASKED SENATOR TMETUCHL OF THE PALAU POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PALAU INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, NOTING THAT AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING THE SENATOR HAD REFERRED TO PALAU BUDGET CUTS RESULTING FROM A "FREEZE" AND INFLATION AND HAD STATED THAT PALAU MIGHT HAVE TO ASSUME NEW MAINTENANCE COSTS. HE ASKED THE SENATOR WHAT HE MEANT

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BY NEW MAINTENANCE COSTS. THE SENATOR SAID SOME BUT
NOT ALL PARTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED.
WITH RESPECT TO NEW MAINTENANCE COSTS, TMETUCHL SAID
IT INVOLVED THE MAINTENANCE OF BOTH NEW AND OLD FACILITIES
SUCH AS SEWAGE SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SAID
HE COULD PROVIDE THE TC WITH DETAILS AT A LATER
TIME. LEONARD

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